

Ke's View Of Things

Today SUPPORTS KENNEDY BUT HE'S UNHAPPY OVER CUBA FIASCO

By JOHN WHEELER

PETTSBURG, Pa. (NANA) — Gen. Dwight Eisenhower seems to be vigorous and in the best of health and spirits and is leading a busy life here.

He is an early riser and is in his office by 10 minutes of 8 every morning. He does not give personal interviews and does not want to be quoted directly. However, he has no objection to background stories as he describes them.

Therefore, any patient and diligent reporter, who is a good listener, can get a sound idea of his views. The following information comes from reliable sources and reflects the former president's opinions on many events and subjects of which he has an intimate knowledge.

First it is clear he desires to support the President and not criticize him on his policies, especially those dealing with the dangerous foreign situation. He does not want to be a second guesser or a Monday morning quarterback, but he does reserve the right to differ with the Administration after events have become history or when he thinks President Kennedy is wrong on domestic matters.

Cuban Failure

He felt that the Cuban plan was a good one, but he was unhappy that it was not successful as are most Americans including the President. Preparations were started during his administration, but no plan of

operation had been devised. The work comprised merely the collecting and training of refugees in camps. The military plan was developed after he left the White House. He feels that, if the United States were going to support the invasion, those in charge should have made sure of its success.

He does not point his finger at any one man as being responsible for its failure, since he does not know about what went on behind the scenes.

One Ship Fled

One of the supply ships turned tail leaving the poor men stranded on the beach. Actually they fought bravely and killed many Castro soldiers, more than they lost until their ammunition and supplies gave out. Any new government formed in Cuba would have resulted in better relations with the United States. This failure has hurt our prestige immensely throughout the world.

He is a little sensitive about the U-2 incident, but feels sure he was right in the course he took. When these spy planes went on their flights depended on the weather, because there was no use making one if the cloud cover prevented photography. He probably did not know the exact date on which Gary Powers took off on his disastrous trip which ended in his capture. He believes the pilot had been carefully screened by the CIA before he was hired. Those who supported this project did not feel there was much risk involved. The flights had been going on successfully for 36 months or more.

Most of General Eisenhower's advisers thought that even if a plane should be shot down, the Russians would not acknowledge publicly the spying had been taking place. This theory did not appeal to President Eisenhower, and it turned out he was right, although he points out the Russian people still have not been

told of the latest series of atomic tests. Another protection against being caught was an automatic device in the airplane which would destroy it completely and kill the pilot if hit or if it fell below a certain altitude. This evidently did not work. Eisenhower realized the project was a great gamble, but felt the results warranted the risk.

Knew Of Flights

Khrushchev knew about overflights when he was in the United States and stayed with General Eisenhower at Camp David. He mentioned them, but did not seem to be particularly indignant. After the U-2 plane and its pilot were captured, General Eisenhower believed he had to acknowledge he was aware of this project, otherwise the American people would believe he was asleep at the switch and did not know what was going on. This was his own

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DWIGHT EISENHOWER
Busy Life

decision and was not due to the advice of any of his admirers. He still stands by it.

After Khrushchev had gone to India and received a cool reception, following Eisenhower's own successful tour, there was no doubt he wanted to withdraw his invitation for a visit to Russia and to break up the summit conference. The U-2 gave him an excuse which he grabbed.

When he was in the United States, the Russian premier and General Eisenhower got along fairly well. One day during his stay at Camp David he expressed a desire to drive around the countryside, and the President went with him. He let the Soviet leader do the talking while he listened. Khrushchev, of course, expressed confidence in his government. He estimated that the military efforts of Russia and the United States were about equal and thought that their costs were about half the amount the

United States put annually into its defense.

Khrushchev talked about our surplus crops and said socialist states had no surpluses, except for necessary reserves. He said all production of all kinds was intelligently requested in Russia. Of course, this statement was made before the current severe famine in Communist China.

Each Stood Firm

At Camp David, each man was firm in his position about the Paris conference. Khrushchev declared that a German treaty had to be signed by May 27. The President replied quietly he could go ahead and sign a treaty, but that he would insist on our rights in Berlin and yield none of them. Furthermore, there would be no summit conference if the Russian leader proceeded with his announced plan.

He finally lifted the conditions, and the conference was scheduled in Paris. When this broke up after Khrushchev demanded an apology from Eisenhower which he refused, the Russian was not particularly violent at the last meeting. He made two long speeches outlining his reasons for withdrawing the invitation to the president to go to Russia.

General Eisenhower feels Khrushchev is unhappy now with the course of events. He does not know what the causes are, but speculates they come from opposition, both within the Kremlin and from Red China and Albania.